



CLIFFSIDE PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Support
Your
Schools!
VOTE!**

VOTE Tuesday, April 20th - Polls Open 2pm - 8pm A SPECIAL BUDGET MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

The Cliffside Park School District’s Annual Budget for the 2021-2022 school year reflects the Board of Education’s continued commitment to our PreK-12 academic, co-curricular and athletic programs. The proposed budget addresses increased costs related to our growing student population and services throughout the district while staying within the 2% mandated cap.

The proposed budget allows for additional staffing to address learning loss and counseling services for students as a result of COVID, an expanded summer program to students in need, funding for tuition and services for students with special needs and early language learners, new resource materials across all disciplines, technology equipment, (every PreK-12th grade student will continue to receive a Chrome Book vital for today’s virtual instruction) software and general instructional supplies. These costs are essential for preparing our students for the NJSLA (NJ Student Learning Assessment) and our future graduates for college and careers in the 21st Century.

Despite rising costs in various areas of the budget we have managed to develop a budget that addresses our current needs and is mindful of our taxpayers.

YOUR SUPPORT LAST YEAR MADE THESE CHANGES POSSIBLE! THANK YOU!!

Your vote will make a tremendous difference in the operation of our school programs on a daily basis. For example, as a result of your approval of the 2020-2021 budget, we were able to maintain all of our existing programs while adding additional classroom teachers, a social worker, school psychologist, speech therapists, purchased new textbooks across all grade levels, expanded our Chrome Book distribution for all students in grades PreK-12 in order to ensure that every student had an opportunity to participate in remote learning and addressed all state PPE mandates for supplies and equipment needed to safely open our schools this past September. We replaced boilers in Schools 3 and 5 as well as continuing our plan of replacing classroom floors and remodeling bathrooms across the district. In addition, we completed the installation of classroom air conditioners in Schools 3, 5, 6 and the MS.

With the support of our Mayor and Council who share the cost of our armed security guards for each of our schools, we continued to provide for the safety and security of our staff and students.

During this school year, we were once again the recipients of the 21st Century Community Learning Grant for \$500,000 per year for the next 2 years. Monies from this grant are used to offset local costs for professional development, staff salaries for after school and summer programs as well as vital counseling and support services for students in need.

The Board and administration will continue to find alternative sources of income to offset many local expenditures. This includes pursuing all grant opportunities as well as continuing to increase revenue from transportation services we provide to other school districts. This past year we generated over \$850,000 in transportation revenue.

LOOKING AHEAD

This summer we will be upgrading our 57 year old HS gym. A new gym floor, installation of new windows and an upgraded ventilation system with air conditioning are planned. We will also complete the installation of classroom air conditioners in Schools 4 and HS.

IMPACT ON TAXPAYERS

In total, the proposed 2021-2022 annual budget reflects a 2% tax levy increase which remains **within state guidelines**. This equates to an increase of approximately **\$77** for a house assessed at \$365,000 or **about \$6.42 per month**. Although any increase to household expenses can present a burden to families, this small increase will continue to provide your children with the quality education they deserve.

As always, this budget reflects the Board of Education’s deep commitment to giving our staff the tools and resources they need in order to provide a world class education to your children, all while presenting a budget that is fiscally responsible.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Michael J. Romagnino

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Please click on the link “User Friendly Budget” for more information.